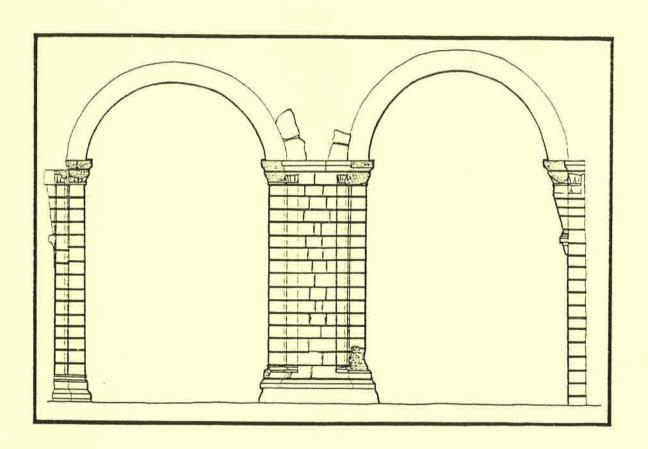
Archaeological Survey of Newlands Chapel, Charing, Kent

(Task 508/102)



Archaeological Survey of Newlands Chapel, Charing, Kent

Summary: The remains of the late 12th-century manorial chapel at Newlands in Charing have been surveyed by rectified photography and measured drawings. The Grade II* Listed chapel, which is a fairly unusual survival, was built in ragstone rubble and Caen ashlar on a small scale, with a two-cell body of chancel and nave, and a nave aisle (now demolished). The arcades of the aisle have finely worked Caen stone capitals and bases, and the door has a distinctive rib moulding round the principal order. There is some suggestion of medieval reworking, and the aisle arcades were perhaps blocked at an early date. The tops of the arcades and windows have been truncated when the wall height was reduced, presumably when the ruined chapel was re-roofed in the 17th or 18th century. The manor belonged to the Archbishops of Canterbury, and Newlands was created for a feudal subholding in the 12th century. There seem to be no direct links with the architectural motifs used in Canterbury Cathedral.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This survey has been commissioned by British Rail Properties Board (Rail Link Project), since Newlands Stud Farm has been acquired by BR and there is a need for information to enable repairs to be carried out and for decisions to be taken regarding the future care of the Chapel. The purpose of the survey has been to provide a detailed and accurate record of the present state of the building for future management, and as a basis on which the history of the structure can be studied.
- 1.2 The measured survey was made by OAU in May 1992, together with a general photographic record; the rectified photography was provided by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust at the same time. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) had previously conducted a general photographic survey (Ref. 90/2673), of which copies are held by BR. Advice on the identification of stonework and the masonry details was provided by Mr. Tim Tatton-Brown. The views expressed here remain the responsibility of OAU.
- 1.3 This report lists the sheets of rectified photographs and survey drawings, and describes the structure of the chapel by reference to the set of interpretative drawings bound in at the end of the report. No documentary research has been undertaken, but a brief historical account is provided.

2. THE SURVEY

2.1 The rectified photographs of the exterior and interior of the chapel are mounted on separate sheets. Difficulties of access to the exterior of the east wall and part of the south wall have meant that complete coverage has not been possible. The photographs have been enlarged to a scale of 1:20, and it should be



noted that this scale refers solely to the plane on which the scales are mounted; other planes are in focus but will not be precisely at that scale.

Rectified Photographs:

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North wall exterior (West)
Sheet 1:
              North wall exterior (East)
Sheet 2:
              North wall interior (E & W)
Sheet 3:
              South wall exterior (E & W)
Sheet 4:
Sheet 5:
              South wall interior (E & W)
Sheet 6:
              East wall exterior
Sheet 7:
              West wall exterior
Sheet 8:
              West wall interior
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2.2 The survey drawings of the exterior and interior of the chapel are provided on separate sheets of drawing film. Drawn at a scale of 1:20, they indicate the individual brick and ashlar details, wall openings and stratigraphic changes, and roof timbers. Since the rubble walling is of consistent character and clearly shown by the excellent lighting conditions prevailing at the time the photographs were taken, it has not been thought necessary to indicate individual stones on these drawings; if necessary they could be added from the rectified photography.

Survey Drawings:

508/102/01	North wall, exterior elevation	(= Fig. 4)
508/102/02	North wall, interior elevation	(= Fig. 5)
508/102/03	South wall, exterior elevation	(= Fig. 6)
508/102/04	South wall, interior elevation	(= Fig. 7)
508/102/05	East wall, exterior elevation	(= Fig. 8)
508/102/06	East wall, interior elevation	(= Fig. 9)
508/102/07	West wall, exterior elevation	(= Fig.10)
508/102/08	West wall, interior elevation	(= Fig.11)
508/102/09	Plan of chapel	(= Fig. 2)
508/102/10	Plan of roof timbers	(= Fig.12)
508/102/11	Cross-section looking east	(= Fig.13)
508/102/12	Plan of south extension	(= Fig. 3)
508/102/13	Key plan of chapel and extension	(= Fig. 1)

2.3 A series of interpretative drawings have been prepared at a scale of 1:50, based on the survey drawings, and are bound in at the end of this report. They identify the different materials and stratigraphic events in the building, and are referred to in the following description.

Interpretative Drawings:

Fig. 1:	Key plan of chapel/extension	(=508/102/13)
Fig. 2:	Plan of chapel	(=508/102/09)
Fig. 3:	Plan of south extension	(=508/102/12)
Fig. 4:	North wall, exterior elevation	(=508/102/01)
Fig. 5:	North wall, interior elevation	(=508/102/02)
Fig. 6:	South wall, exterior elevation	(=508/102/03)



Fig. 7:	South wall, interior elevation	(=508/102/04)
Fig. 8:	East wall, exterior elevation	(=508/102/05)
Fig. 9:	East wall, interior elevation	(=508/102/06)
Fig. 10:	West wall, exterior elevation	(=508/102/07)
Fig. 11:	West wall, interior elevation	(=508/102/08)
Fig. 12:	Plan of roof timbers	(=508/102/10)
Fig. 13:	Cross-section looking east	(=508/102/11)

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Charing was a Canterbury manor from the 8th century, and at the time of Domesday was an archiepiscopal manor. Its position in Kent, twelve miles southwest of Canterbury, made it convenient for travel to London, and its use by the Archbishops, even when leased out, is attested by its being charged with providing for the Archbishop during his visits, the wood-carrying services owed by tenants, and repairs to the kitchen. Even the stables were retained when it was leased in the 16th century, though it was subsequently acquired by Henry VIII in 1545. The rebuilt ruins of the manor still exist by the parish church in the centre of Charing.
- 3.2 Situated on fertile land below the downs, Charing was a prosperous manor, and like many others it expanded onto more marginal land in the course of the middle ages, and there is clear evidence in the rising rental income that more land was being cleared for agriculture. The heathlands at the south end of the parish were especially suitable for this, and the very name of *Newlands* is indicative of secondary settlement. The manor was probably created in the 12th century for one of the Archbishop's knights, and in 1279 Thomas de Bendinges did homage to Archbishop Pecham for the twentieth part of a Knight's fee at Newland in Charing. The manor house is in part medieval, and the chapel can be dated from the stylistic details of the masonry to the last quarter of the 12th century. Manorial chapels were not uncommon, but is less usual for one of such early date to exist in such a state of completeness.
- 3.3 Though the later medieval history of Newlands has not been studied in detail, separate courts were being held there in the 1350s, in 1375 John of Newland was granted a licence for his chapel saving the rights for the mother church of Charing. Shortly after that date Newlands manor became part of Calehill Manor in Little Chart, and the chapel was given to Leeds Priory, being recorded in a visitation in 1511 as chantry chapel with lands to support a priest to say mass, but it was reported that though no services were taking place. It is unlikely to have survived the reformation as a consecrated building, and must have been ruinous when it was re-roofed in the 17th or 18th century. Since there is no structural evidence for its use as a domestic building, the chapel must have been used as an outbuilding of the manor.

4. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CHAPEL

4.1 The main part of the chapel is a *two-cell plan* of chancel and nave, the chancel being somewhat narrower, marked by an offset in the side walls (the quoins are lost on the north side and the south side is rebuilt in brick). There was a



chancel arch set in a wall dividing the chancel and nave, of which the north end can be seen, but no details are preserved. On the south side was an aisle with an arcade of two arches and a central pier; little trace remains of this aisle, and the existing lean-to outbuilding is of no great age, but the scar of the west wall can be seen where it continued out from the west wall of the chapel, and the junction of its east wall is now marked by brickwork. Given the sandy nature of the soil, and the location of the chapel on the edge of a slope, it is possible that the south aisle collapsed and was blocked off in the medieval period; the blocking material seems to be distinct from any of the post-medieval repair work in the chapel.

- The walls are of ragstone rubble, possibly from a nearby source, and all original ashlar is in fine imported Caen stone, except for some interior work in hard chalk, and some greensand ragstone used in the piscina. Only the north door is complete, and the tops of the windows and south arcade gave been truncated, probably when the ruined walls were levelled off for re-roofing in post-medieval times; about a metre of masonry has been lost from the tops of the walls, judging from the curvature of the springers of the nave arcade. The north wall has a narrow single-light window to both the nave and chancel, with external chamfer, a wide internal splay, and presumably round heads. The south wall of the chancel must have had one window where there is now an extensive area of brick blocking, perhaps marking a larger late medieval window replacing the original one (see brick blocking on exterior). The west wall had two windows of which the central jambs survive, but the outer jambs were widened in the post-medieval repairs. At the east end are remains of a three-light window, of which the central one was slightly wider (and perhaps taller); these too were probably round-headed, but may possibly have been pointed.
- 4.3 The only fittings are a *piscina* on the south wall of the chancel, with a lightly pointed arch and a wooden shelf which may be original. Alone of the original work, this seems to be of ragstone ashlar from the Greensand. Opposite it in the north wall are the remains of an cupboard or *ambry*, with a rebate for wooden fittings in its Caen stone jambs and a wooden plank on its top which may be original. This was converted to a window when the chapel was restored.
- Of the original decorative details the *north door* is the most impressive. It has two nook-shafts, carried over the arch, the inner one having a regular series of protruding rings (one on each stone in the jambs and on alternate stones in the arch); these are similar to those employed to hold detached columns. The lower part of the inner jambs have been replaced. The bases have rolls and hollow, but are not yet water-holding, the caps are scalloped, and the abacus has a well-cut hollow between rolls. The aisle arcade is of a simpler pattern, with nook-shafts and a central keeled member, hollowed bases (again not water-holding), and a single leaf at the corners of the keeled member. The caps are scalloped, below a chamfered abacus, all very finely cut. One peculiarity is that the western respond is truncated below the caps, the keeled member tapering away into a small base on a bracket, and the nook-shafts dying into a stopped aris shortly below the cap. There are a couple of chalk voussoirs of the arch rising from the abacus of the central pier. The single pier on the north side of the nave, with a small scalloped cap is probably a modern insertion, set on recut shaft stones and an inverted abacus as a base. Nearby is a reset decorated cap with a finely cut motif of a single acanthus leaf; this may come from the lost chancel arch.



- Apart from the rubble blocking of the nave arcade, which may be medieval, 4.5 post-medieval repairs contemporary with re-roofing were made in brick, when the windows were made up, the south door made and the walls levelled. Some parts of this brickwork may be of yet later date. The roof, possibly as late as the 18th century, has a collar clasping two side-purlins, and principal rafters that are diminished above the collar. A lower set of purlins and struts have been added later, in the 19th or 20th century, but most of the rafters are contemporary with the roof. No re-used timbers that might belong to the original medieval roof were observed, and there is no evidence of any inserted flooring. An inscription recording the restoration of the chapel in 1963 may mark the occasion of the addition of the north door, a stout gothic Victorian one that has presumably been brought from elsewhere. It is supported on two large timber posts (reused); two similar timber posts were employed to block the gap in the blocking of the south wall.
- The south extension is a lean-to shed with low walls of large rubble with 4.6 brick quoins, probably of 19th-century date. Its roof is formed of a series of common rafters carried by a plate held on four timber posts set on the ground, and tied to the south wall of the chapel by a couple of light tie beams let into the rubble and brickwork; a small upper purlin is supported on slender curved braces of plank section. Against its east end is the stone wall of the adjacent 20th-century house.

COMMENTARY ON INTERPRETATIVE DRAWINGS 5.

Contexts described for one elevation are not usually repeated for another, except where additional description is given.

Plan of chapel 5.1 Fig. 2

(=508/102/09)

Features as numbered below.

Fig. 3: Plan of outbuilding 5.2 Features as numbered below at Figs. 6 & 13. (=508/102/12)

- Tie and strut at west end of roof.
- Tie at centre of roof. [40]
- Walls of south extension, in large rubble with brick quoins. [60]
- Timber posts supporting roof. [61]
- [62] Wall-plate.
- Plate on top of posts, tied to wall of chapel with two light tiebeams (shown [63] only in plan).
- Purlin supported by slender braces (not shown in section). [64]
- (=508/102/01)North wall, exterior elevation 5.3
- Caen stone ashlar masonry of original build.
- Ragstone rubble walling of original build. [2]
- Brickwork of rebuilding phase ?18th-century. [3]
- North door of original build (see 4.4 above). [4]
- Stone repairs replacing original work in north door. [5]
- Gap in wall for nave north window, with leaded light. [6]
- Missing offset at nave/chancel corner. [7]



[8] North chancel window, with chamfered jambs.

[9] Window made in rebuilding phase from medieval ambry.

5.4 Fig. 5: North wall, interior elevation (= 508/102/02)

[10] Timber posts and planks supporting 19th-cent. door.

[11] Modern step with paving slab.

- [12] Inscription recording 1963 restoration.
- [13] Romanesque cap with acanthus motif.

[14] Area of probable original plastering.

- [15] Modern pier of recut shaft stones, scalloped cap and inverted abacus as base.
- [16] Original plastering round corner from nave to chancel arch wall.

[17] Scar of chancel arch wall.

[18] Chalk blocks used for internal jambs of window [8].

- [19] Ambry of Caen stone with rebate for wooden fittings, of original build.
- [20] Wooden plank forming ceiling of ambry, probably original.
- Roof: (features [21]-[26] belong to the original period of roofing, in rebuilding phase ?18th cent.)

[21] Principal rafters.

[22] Purlin, pegged to common rafters.

[23] Collars.

- [24] Tie beams.
- [25] Wall-plate
- [26] Wall-plate scarf joint.
- [27] Added purlin and struts.
- [28] Iron bands on wall-plates.
- 5.5 Fig. 6: South wall, exterior elevation (= 508/102/03)

[29] Scar of continuation of west wall to nave aisle.

- [30] West respond of nave arcade, with cap and stopped nook-shaft.
- [31] Rubble blocking of nave arcade, possibly medieval.

[32] South door introduced in rebuilding phase.

- [33] Tie and strut at west end of roof of lean-to south extension.
- [34] Central pier of nave arcade, with nook-shafts partly exposed.

[35] Chalk voussoirs of nave arcade arches.

[36] Exposed foundation of pier, suggesting soil erosion.

[37] Recent holes in face of rubble blocking.

[38] Timber posts, probably added in 1960s to block gap in wall.

[39] Brick buttress, probably of rebuilding phase, marking corner of nave and chancel.

[40] Tie at centre of roof of lean-to south extension.

[41] Rubble walling with some chalk, generally of larger stones than rubble walling of original build, and perhaps representing a later medieval rebuilding of chancel south wall.

[42] Brick blocking (?blocking of window prior to brickwork of rebuilding phase), and perhaps representing later medieval window contemporary with [41].

[43] Stone wall of 20th-cent. house.

[44] Modern timber shuttering over [43].



(=508/102/04)South wall, interior elevation 5.6 Fig. 7: Roof as at 5.4 above. Here probably surviving for short length at east end. Here continuous over feature [42] visible externally. [3] Here central keeled order of respond dies back into wall. [30] Edge of [31] cut back to reveal ashlar masonry. [45] Eastern respond of nave arcade, with nook-shafts and keeled member for [46] full height. Curved filling of brick and rubble marking position of chancel arch wall. [47] Piscina, apparently of Greensand ragstone, probably of original build. [48] Wooden shelf in piscina, probably of original build. [49] (= 508/102/05)East wall, exterior elevation 5.7 Fig. 8: Note falling off of ground level; upper part at south end not accessible. North window of east wall, with chamfered jambs. [50] Central window of east wall, with chamfered jamb. [51] Window of rebuilding phase, comprising width of central and south windows [52] of east wall, and with leaded light. East wall, interior elevation (=508/102/06)Fig. 9: 5.8 Roof is hipped, with lower purlin pegged to rafters. Here rubble core of wall with chalky mortar exposed by removal of jamb. [2] Interior of north window has rendered reveals. [50] Interior of central window mostly removed for [52], but wider than both the [51] side windows, and with Caen stone jambs. South window of east wall with rendered reveal, and blocked by brickwork [53] Chalk outer jambs of windows [50] and [53]. [54] West wall, exterior elevation (= 508/102/07)Fig. 10: 5.9 North window of west wall, enlarged in rebuilding phase. [55] South window of west wall, enlarged in rebuilding phase. [56] (=508/102/08)West wall, interior elevation 5.10 Fig. 11: Here the rubble walling is partly rendered. [2] Interior of north window of west wall rebuilt in brick except for central [55] Interior of south window of west wall rebuilt in brick except for central [56] Central jamb of chalk blocks. [57] Patch of modern repointing. [58] Secondary struts joining irregular rafters. [59] (= 508/102/10-11)Figs. 12-3: Plan and section of roof timbers 5.11 (features [21]-[26] belong to the original period of roofing, in rebuilding Roof: phase ?18th cent.) Principal rafters, diminished above collars. [21]Purlin, pegged to common rafters. [22]

Tie beams (soffit cut away on one tie only, as shown in fig. 13).

Collars, thin section and cambered.

[23]

[24]

[25]

Wall-plate



[26] Wall-plate scarf joint.

[27] Added purlin and struts.

[28] Iron bands on wall-plates.

[59] Secondary struts joining irregular rafters.

5.12 Fig. 13: Cross-section looking east

(=508/102/11)

Roof of chapel as for last.

[60] Walls of south extension, in large rubble with brick quoins.

[61] Timber posts supporting roof.

[62] Wall-plate.

[63] Plate on top of posts, tied to wall of chapel with two light tiebeams (shown only in plan).

[64] Purlin supported by slender braces (not shown in section).

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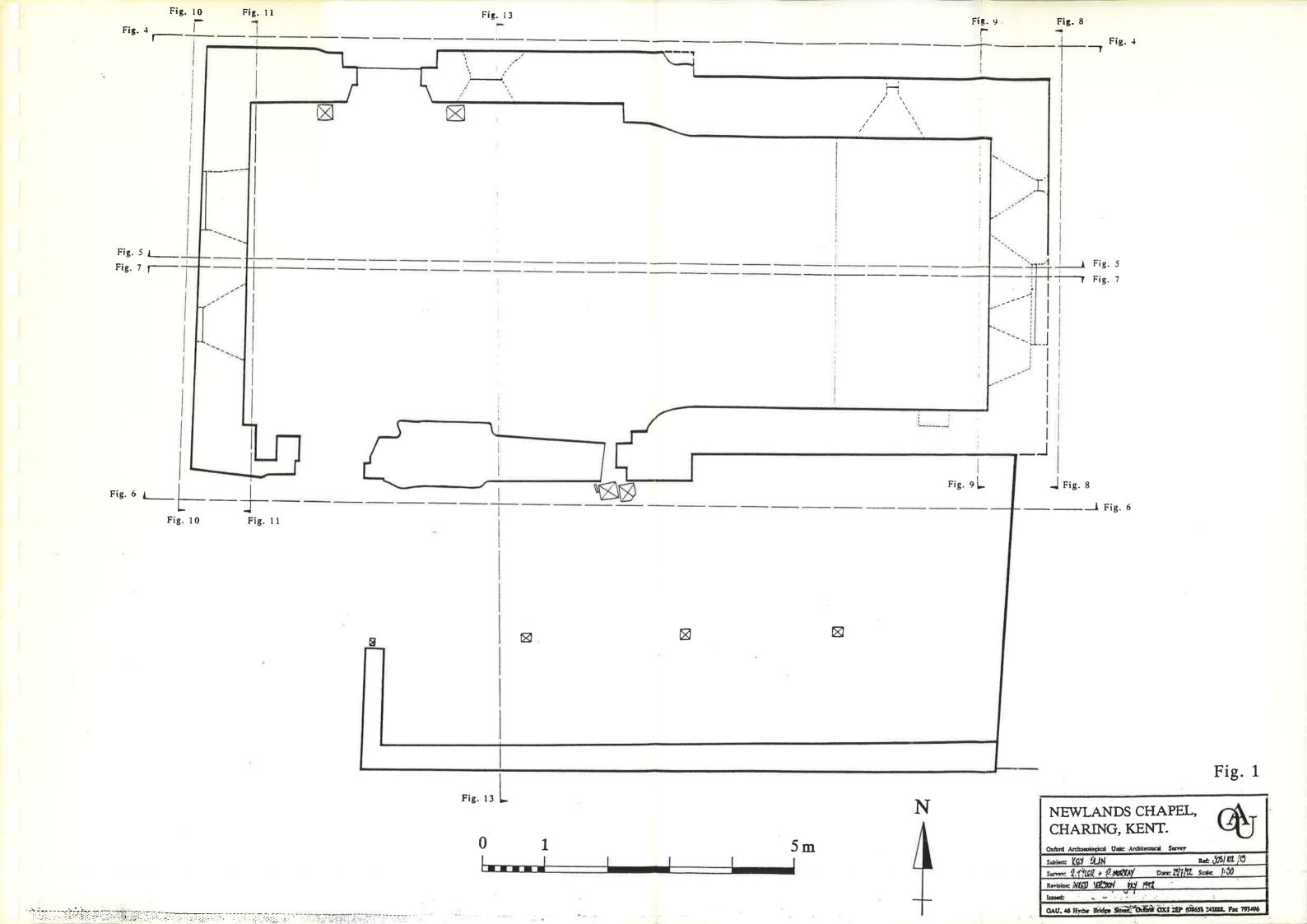
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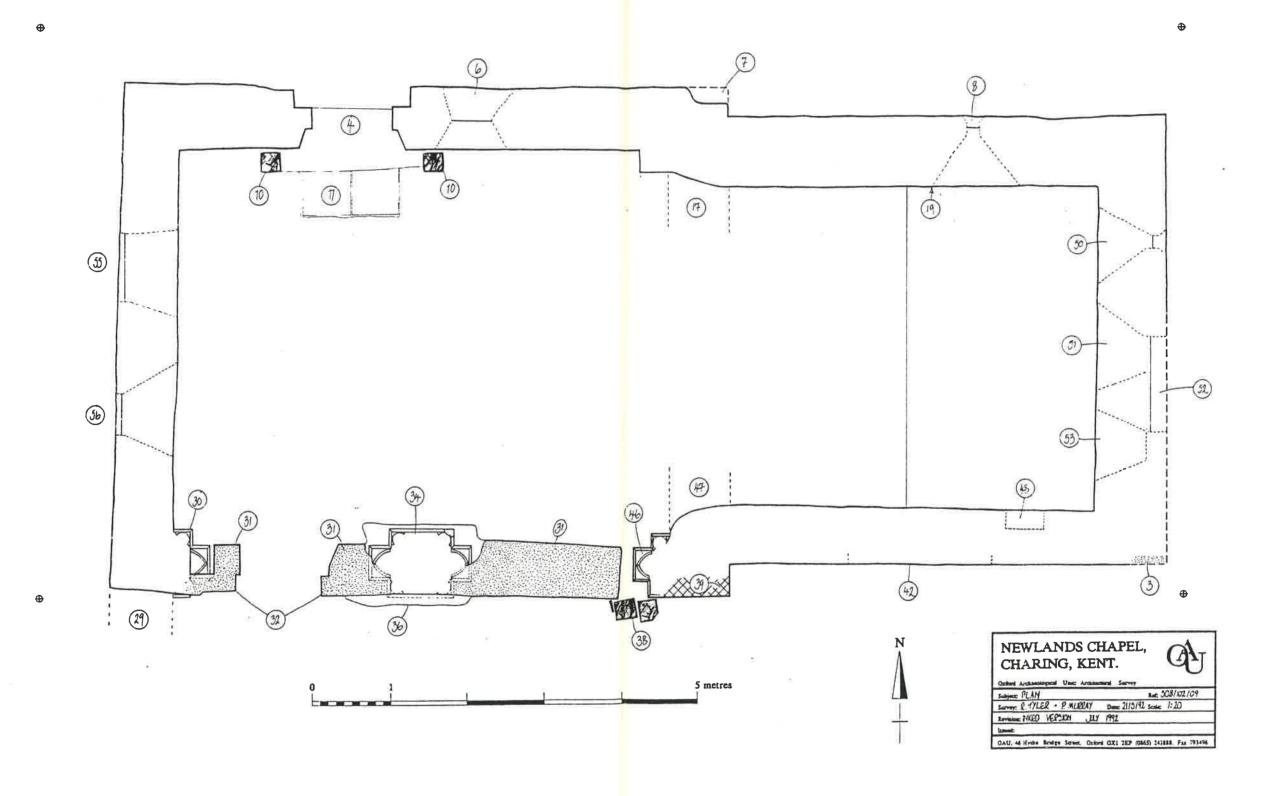
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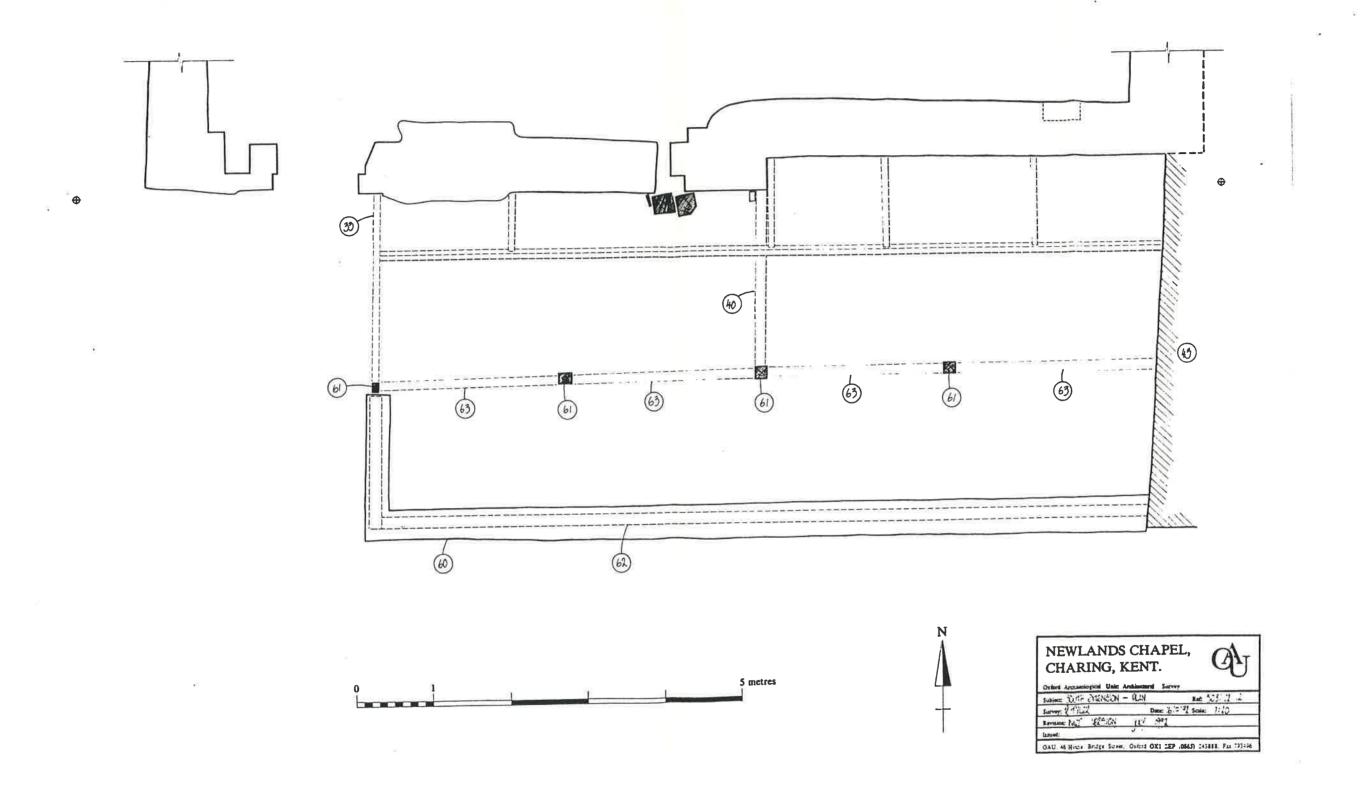
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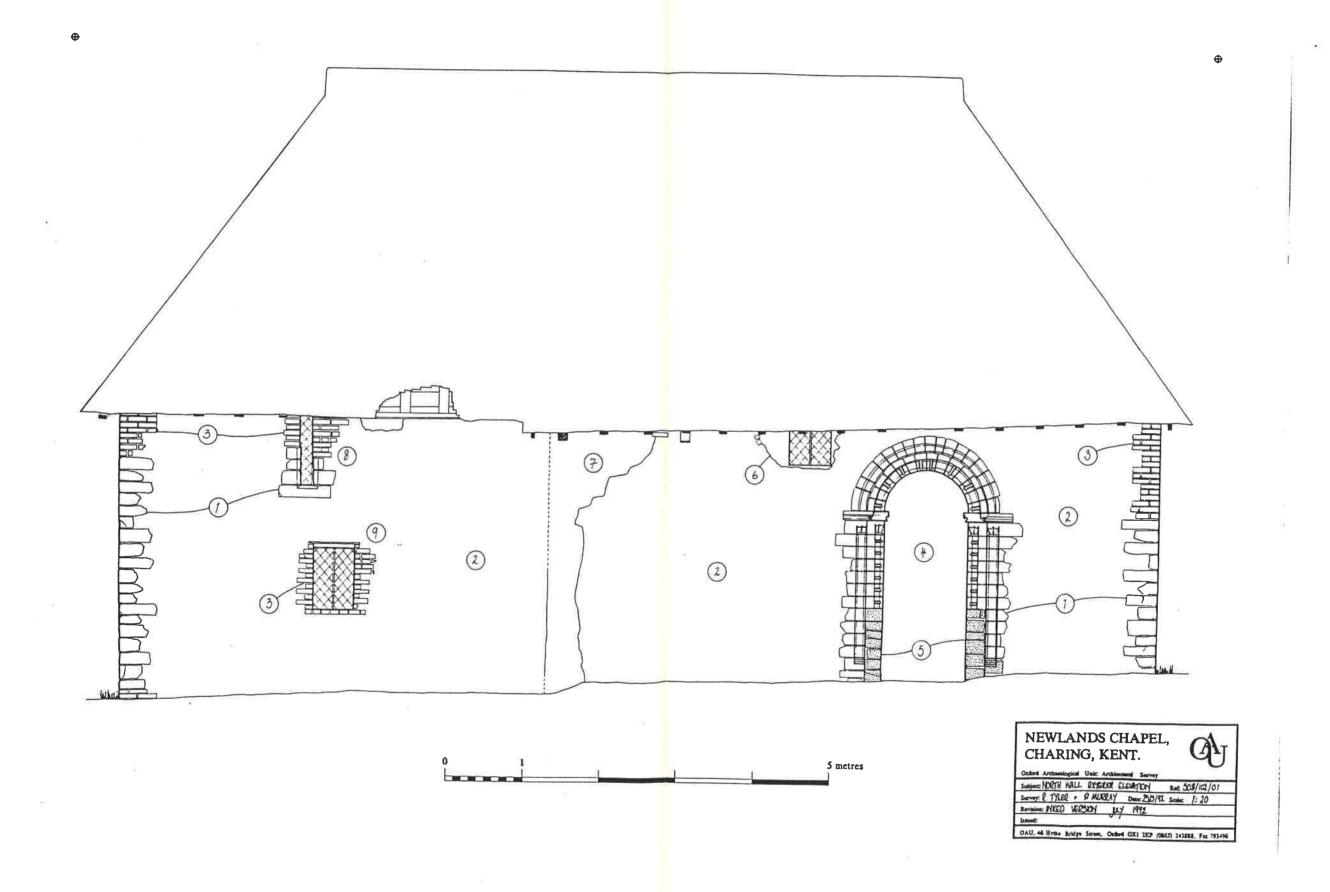
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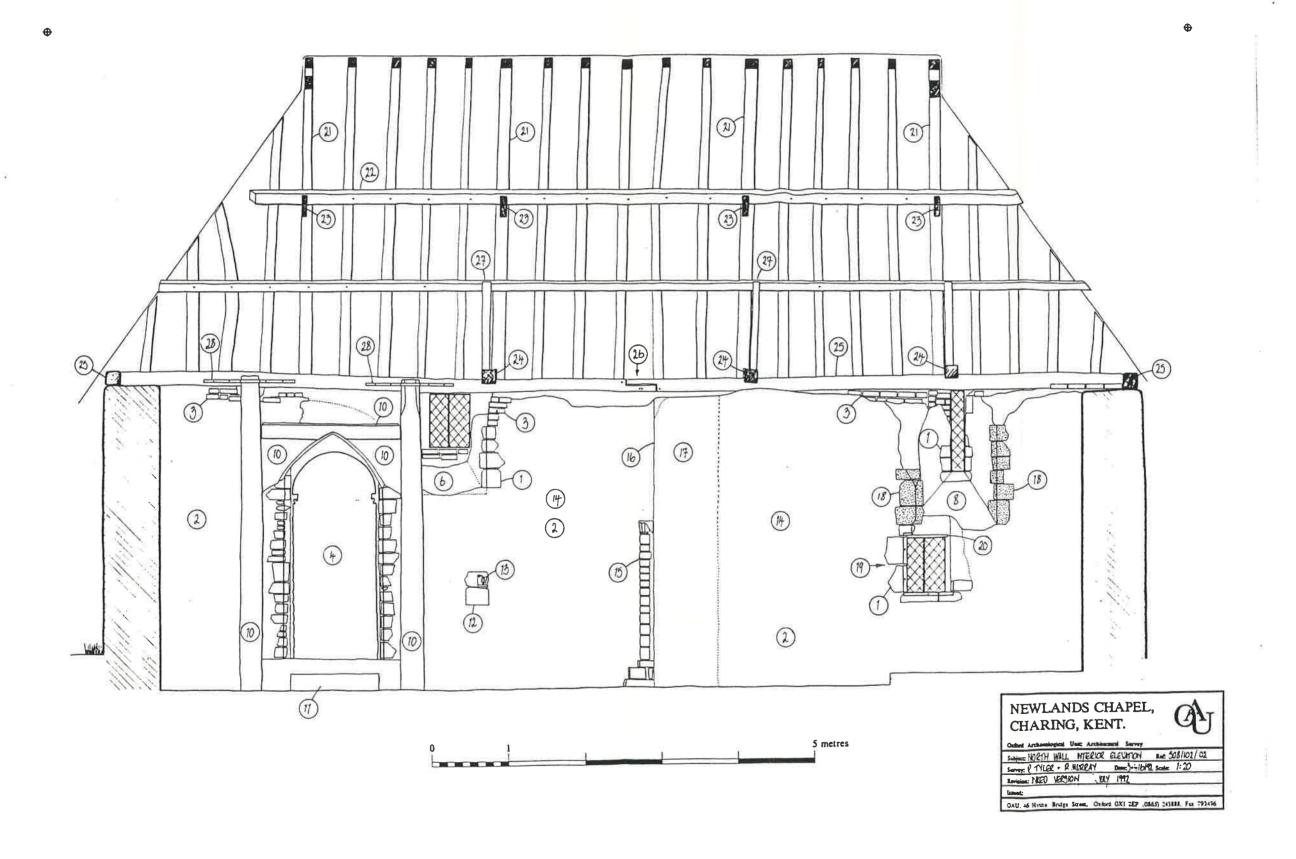
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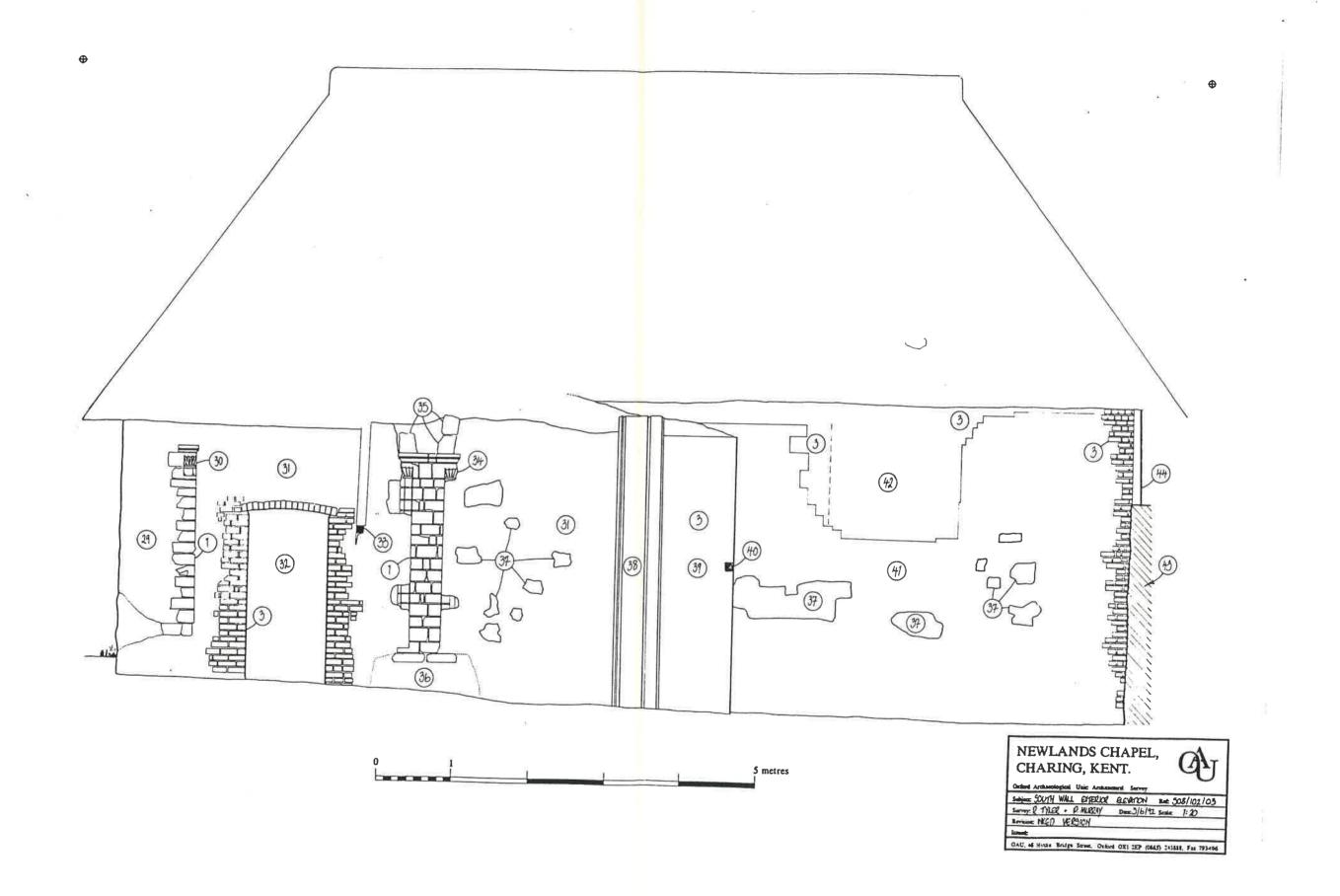


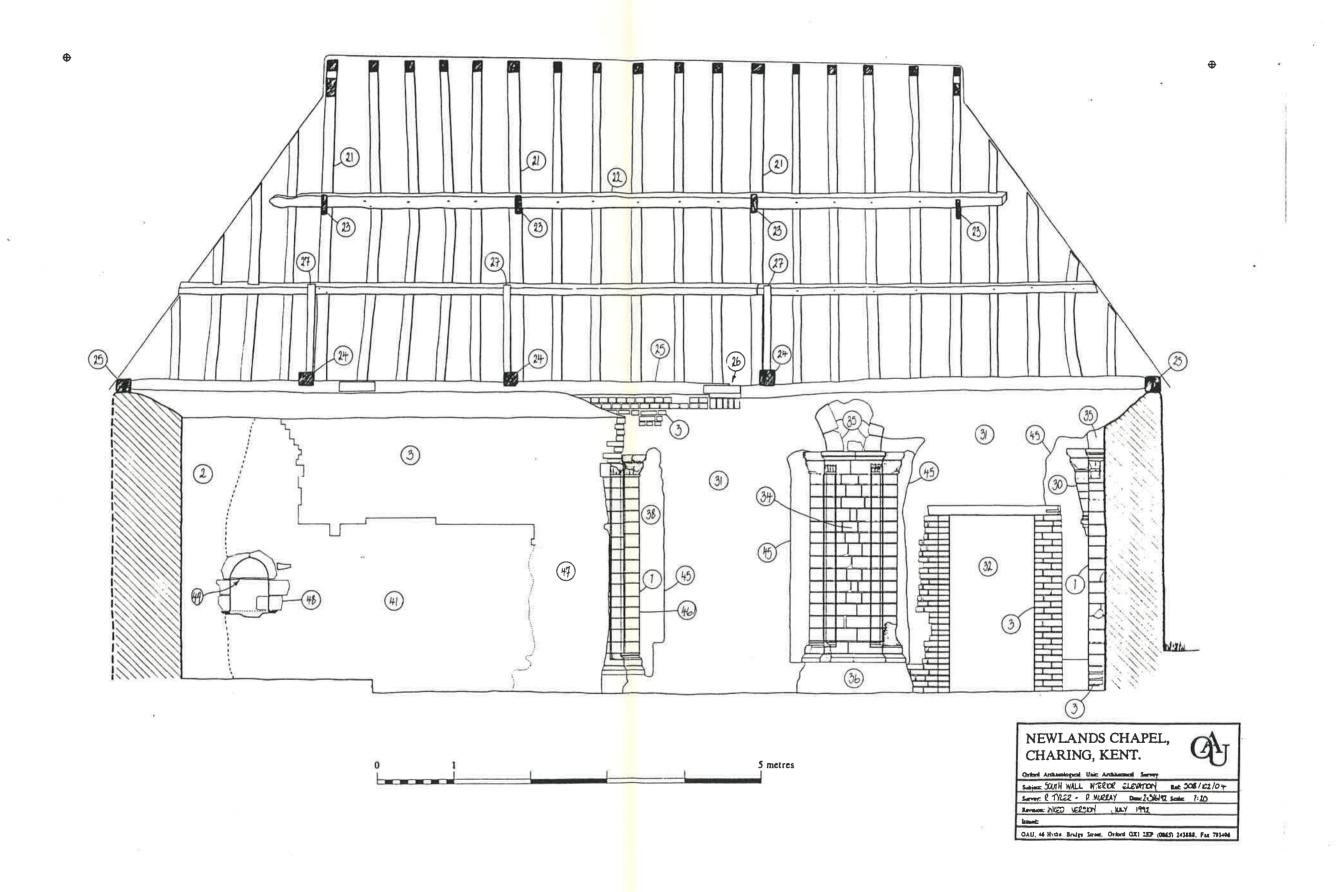






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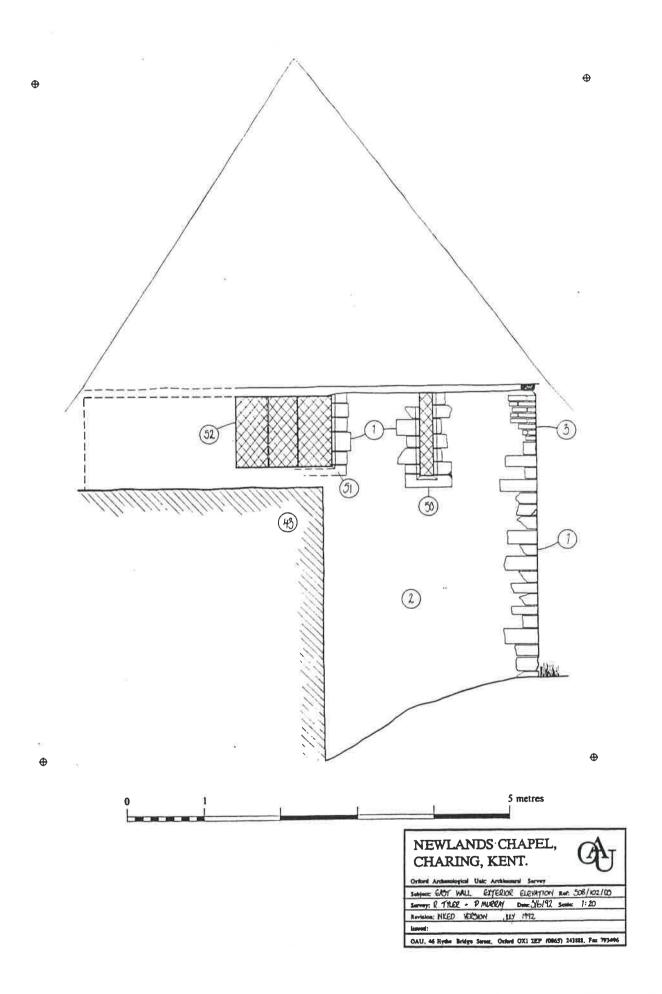
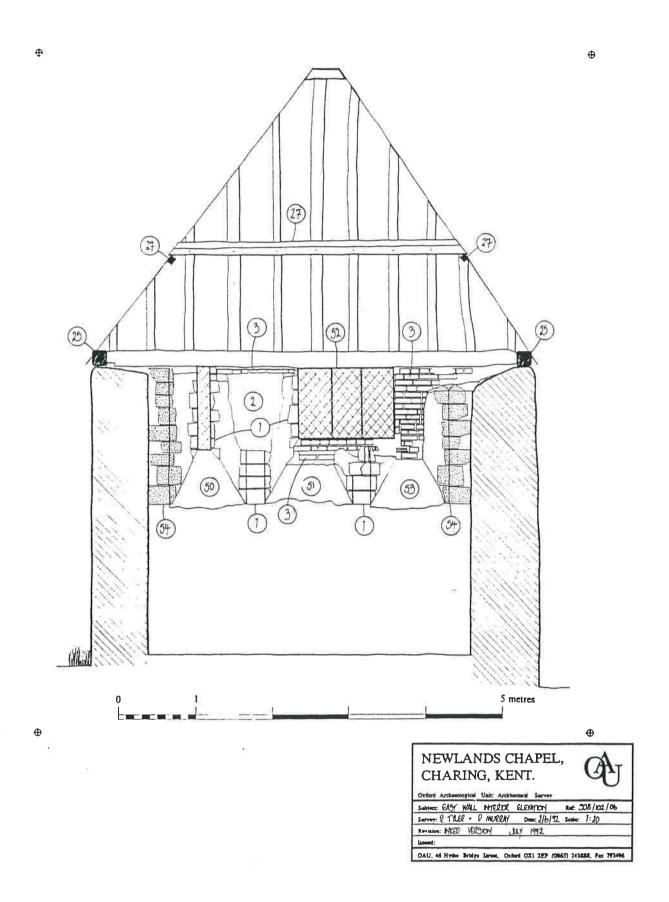
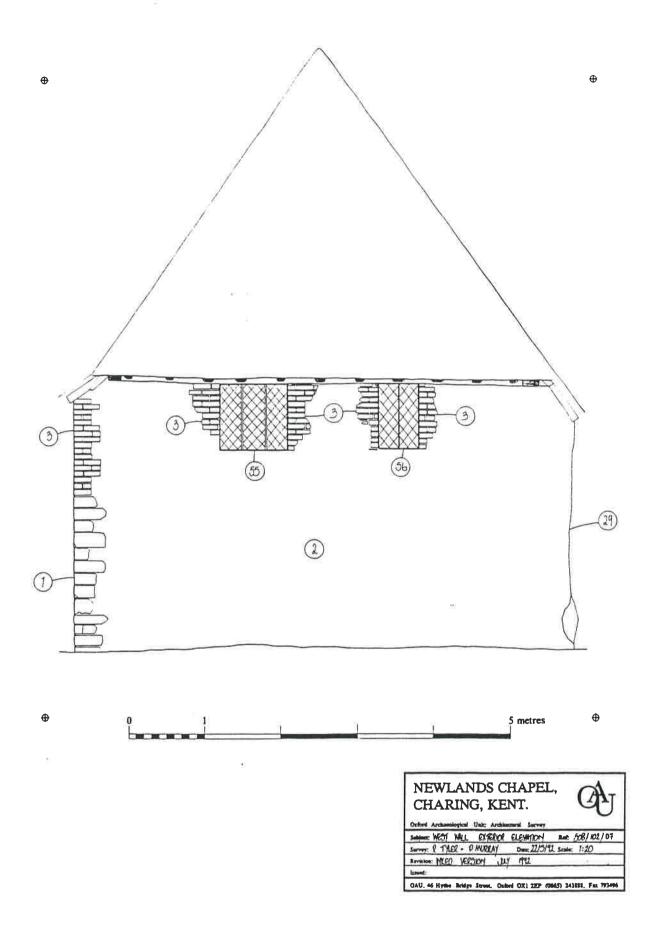
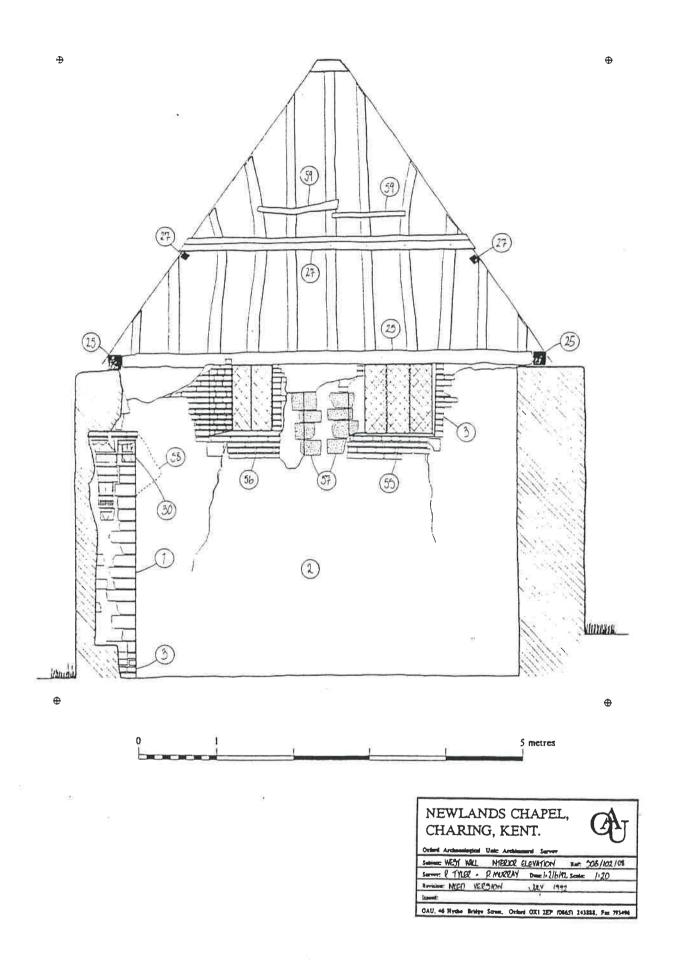
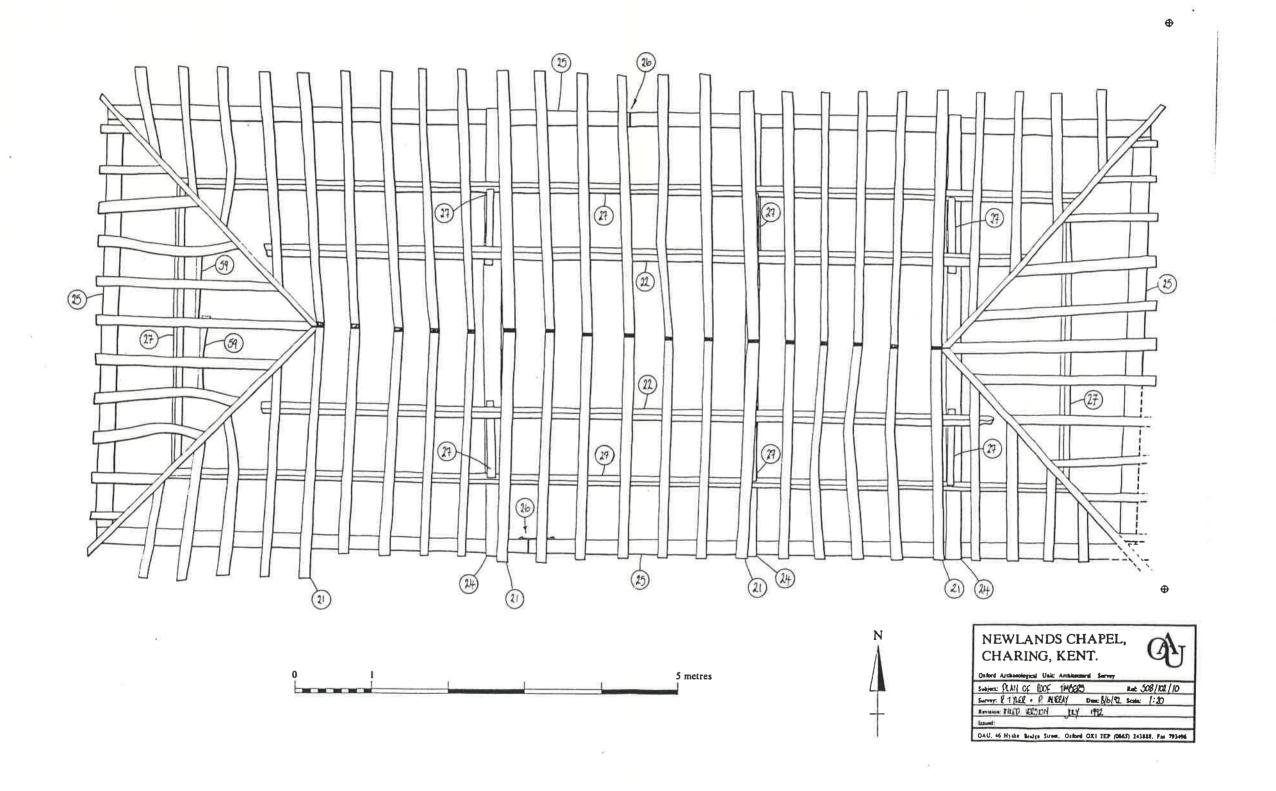


Fig. 8

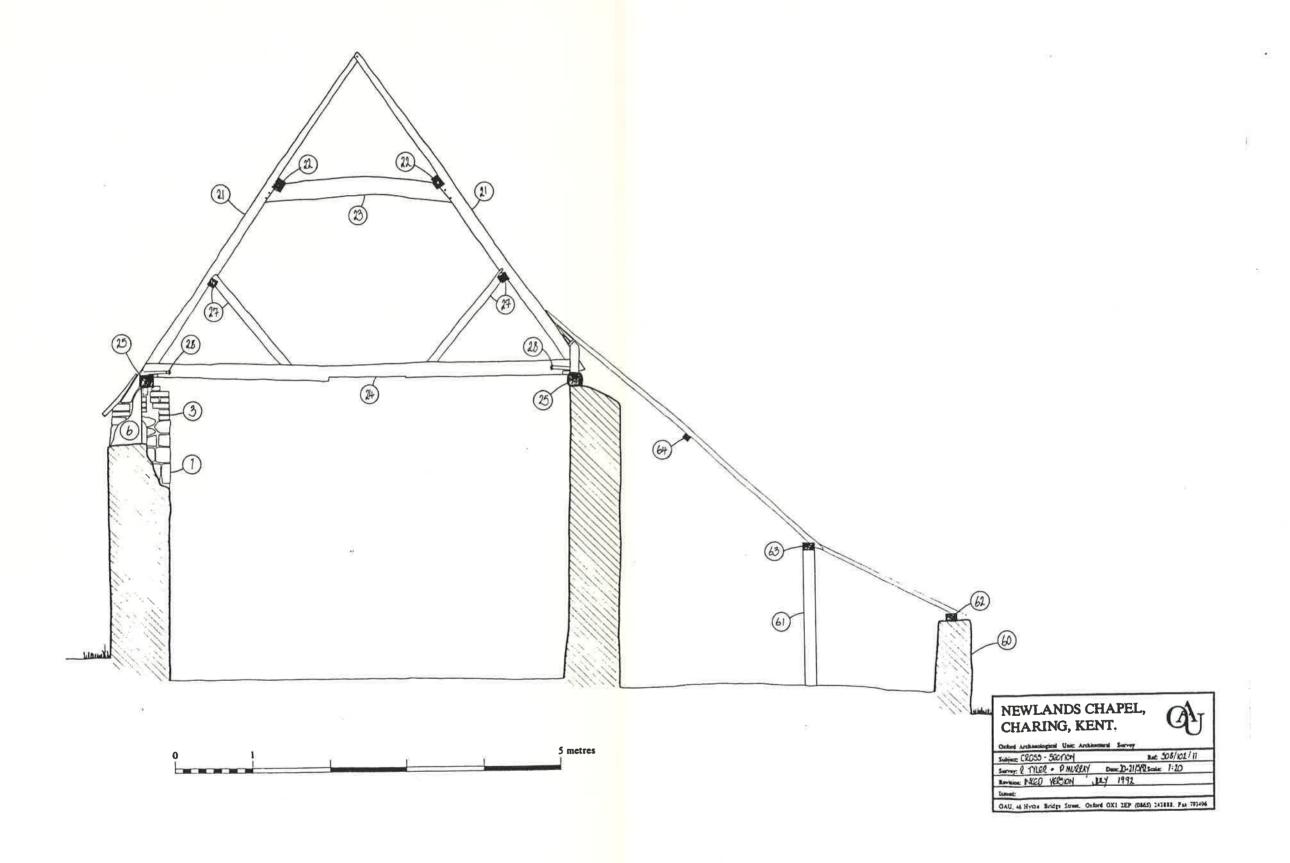








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